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[REDACTED]

~~NOFORN NOCONTRACT~~
BRIEF 100518Z
TO: IMMEDIATE ROUTINE MEA BRIEF.

(NOFORN IN SLANTS)

WNTTEL.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA BRIEF
1985.

FOR 10: DECEMBER

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS

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1. AFGHANISTAN: LEADERSHIP CHANGES
 2. IRAN-IRAQ: ISLAMIC PEACE COMMITTEE
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1. AFGHANISTAN: LEADERSHIP CHANGES

//THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO PORTRAY RECENT CHANGES IN THE

Approved for Release
Date JUN 1999

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AFGHAN RULING PARTY AS INITIATIVES TO REVITALIZE IT AND TO
CONCILIATE OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME.//

//THE MAIN CHANGE APPEARS TO BE THE PROMOTION OF FORMER
INTELLIGENCE CHIEF NAJIBULLAH TO A PROMINENT POSITION IN THE PARTY
AS CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

SOVIET OFFICIALS ARE GOING OUT OF
THEIR WAY TO UNDERSCORE PRESIDENT BABRAK KARMAL'S RECENT HINTS THAT
HE PLANS TO BROADEN THE REGIME TO MAKE IT MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE
POPULATION. BABRAK'S RECENT SPEECH WAS MADE
AT SOVIET INITIATIVE; THE SOVIETS ARE PUSHING
THE IDEA THAT THE REGIME IS MAKING CONCILIATORY GESTURES TOWARDS THE
RESISTANCE.

//THE SOVIET AND AFGHAN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO GIVE AN
IMPRESSION OF FLEXIBILITY ARE PROBABLY AIMED PRIMARILY AT IMPROVING
THE ATMOSPHERE BEFORE THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS IN GENEVA LATER THIS
MONTH. KABUL HAS RECENTLY SENT SEVERAL PARTY DELEGATIONS ABROAD TO
IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES AND TO COUNTER
PUBLICITY GENERATED BY AFGHAN RESISTANCE DELEGATIONS IN EUROPE AND
THE MIDDLE EAST.//

//NAJIBULLAH'S RECENT PROMOTION STRENGTHENS HIS POSITION AS A
POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO BABRAK. THE SOVIETS MAY BE WAITING TO SEE HOW
WELL NAJIBULLAH ATTACKS THE INEFFICIENCY AND DISLOYALTY IN THE
AFGHAN CIVIL SERVICE AND MILITARY FORCES BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO
MOVE HIM UP TO SUCCEED BABRAK.//

//DESPITE MOSCOW'S EFFORTS TO APPEAR FLEXIBLE, GENERAL
SECRETARY GORBACHEV, MAKING HIS FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE
SUBJECT BEFORE THE SUPREME SOVIET LAST MONTH, DEFENDED THE USSR'S
AFGHAN POLICY IN PRECISELY THE SAME WAY AS HIS PREDECESSORS.//

2. IRAN-IRAQ: ISLAMIC PEACE COMMITTEE

//GAMBIA PRESIDENT JAWARA, CHAIRMAN OF THE ISLAMIC
CONFERENCE'S COMMITTEE ON THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, BEGINS A NEW MEDIATION
EFFORT TODAY, DESPITE CONTINUED IRANIAN INFLEXIBILITY ON THE MAIN
ISSUES IN THE CONFLICT. JAWARA EXPECTS TO BE JOINED IN JIDDAH BY
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE--MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER MAHATHIR,
TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER HALEFOGLU, AND POSSIBLY PAKISTANI PRESIDENT

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ZIA--BEFORE PROCEEDING TO BAGHDAD AND TEHRAN.

3. SOUTH ASIA: MODEST BEGINNING FOR REGIONAL GROUP

//THE FIRST SUMMIT OF THE SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION LAST WEEKEND IN BANGLADESH CREATED FAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR THE PARTICIPANTS BUT PRODUCED FEW RESULTS, EVEN IN THE BILATERAL TALKS. THE HEADS OF STATE OF PAKISTAN, INDIA, BANGLADESH, SRI LANKA, NEPAL, BHUTAN, AND THE MALDIVES DECIDED TO FORM NEW COMMITTEES TO EXPLORE COOPERATION ON COMBATING TERRORISM AND DRUG ABUSE, AND TO HOLD THEIR SECOND ANNUAL SUMMIT IN NEW DELHI NEXT NOVEMBER. THE SUMMIT DECLARATION CALLED FOR A NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY AND FOR INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING ECONOMIES. NO DECISIONS WERE REACHED ON WHETHER TO CREATE A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OR WHERE TO LOCATE A PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS. MANY STATES, INCLUDING THE US AND CHINA, SENT CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES, BUT MOSCOW DID NOT.//

//PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER COOPERATION WILL BE PRIMARILY DETERMINED BY INDIAN PRIME MINISTER GANDHI'S ATTITUDE AND HIS USE OF INDIA'S DISPROPORTIONATE POWER AND SHARE OF RESOURCES. SO FAR, HE HAS USED THE ORGANIZATION TO REASSURE THE SMALLER STATES OF INDIAN GOOD WILL, BUT PREFERS TO DISCUSS DIFFICULT ISSUES IN BILATERAL FORUMS.//

4. IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

--//IRAQ ADMITS LOSING AIRCRAFT DURING LARGE RAID ON IRANIAN POSITIONS SUNDAY . . . ALSO BOMBED KHARK ISLAND SATURDAY--50TH TIME SINCE 15 AUGUST--SLIGHTLY DAMAGING KHARK-SIRRI SHUTTLE TANKER . . .

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PRESSURE ON IRAN'S OIL OPERATIONS HAVING LITTLE EFFECT.// [REDACTED] 63

--//DELEGATION OF LEBANESE AMAL AND HIZBALLAH IN IRAN .
TEHRAN PROPOSED VISIT TO END FEUD BETWEEN THE TWO RIVAL SHIA
ORGANIZATIONS . . . SUCCESS UNLIKELY.// [REDACTED] 63

--//KURDISH REBELS STILL KIDNAPING SOVIETS, OTHER EAST
EUROPEANS WORKING IN NORTHERN IRAQ . . . RECENTLY RELEASED TWO
SOVIETS CAPTURED A MONTH AGO . . . [REDACTED] YUGOSLAV WORKER 61,63
RETURNING FROM AREA IMPRESSED BY KURDISH DETERMINATION,
ORGANIZATION.// [REDACTED] 63

AFRICA

--//AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMBING
OF SOUTH AFRICAN POST OFFICE IN DURBAN ON SUNDAY INJURING EIGHT
. . . LATEST IN SPATE OF BOMBINGS TO MARK COMING ANNIVERSARY OF
FOUNDING OF ANC MILITARY WING.// [REDACTED] 63
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